

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BOE KEENAN,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	Crim. Action No. 15-226
)	
v.)	Related to: Civil Action No. 21-1055
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	Judge Cathy Bissoon
)	
Respondent.)	

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Pending before the Court is Petitioner’s Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct a Sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (“Motion”) (Doc. 85) filed at Criminal Action No. 15-226 and at Civil Action No. 21-1055.¹ For the reasons stated by the Government in opposition (“Response”) (Doc. 91), which are incorporated by reference herein, the Motion will be denied.

BACKGROUND

The Court writes exclusively for the parties and therefore sets forth only those facts that are necessary to the disposition of Petitioner’s Motion.

On October 27, 2015, Petitioner was charged with one count of robbery, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a). Doc. 1. On February 9, 2017, Petitioner pleaded guilty to that charge. Doc. 49. Petitioner was sentenced to 151 months imprisonment with credit for time served and 3 years supervised release. Doc. 66. Petitioner was sentenced as a career offender under U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1 due to two prior convictions: (1) his 2011 Pennsylvania conviction for aggravated

¹ Petitioner failed to timely file a statement of intent (pursuant to the Court’s Order on the Government’s Motion at Doc. 89) and as such, the Government was ordered to respond to the Petitioner’s Motion as filed (Doc. 90).

assault with a deadly weapon and (2) his 2011 federal conviction for bank robbery by intimidation. Doc. 53 at ¶ 20. Petitioner appealed his conviction and sentence, challenging the Court’s conclusion that the two predicate offenses were crimes of violence. Doc. 70. The Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit found, however, that the Court had properly calculated Petitioner’s guideline range. Doc. 82-1.

ANALYSIS

I. Need for Evidentiary Hearing

The Court need not hold an evidentiary hearing on a motion filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 if the record conclusively shows that the petitioner is not entitled to relief. U.S. v. Ritter, 93 F. App’x 402 (3d Cir. 2004); 28 U.S.C § 2255. Under this standard, a hearing is unnecessary in this case.

II. Petitioner’s Claims

Petitioner moves to vacate his sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Such relief is “generally available only in ‘exceptional circumstances’ to protect against a fundamental defect which inherently results in a complete miscarriage of justice or an omission inconsistent with the rudimentary demands of fair procedure.” United States v. Gordon, 979 F. Supp. 337, 339 (E.D. Pa. 1997) (quoting Hill v. United States, 368 U.S. 424, 428 (1962)). Petitioner alleges that he is no longer a career offender in light of the Supreme Court’s opinion in United States v. Davis, 139 S. Ct. 2319 (2019).

First, as the government notes, Petitioner’s motion is untimely. Response at 4. In addition, the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has held that a challenge to a career offender designation under the advisory Guidelines—which is Petitioner’s contention here—is not cognizable under § 2255. Response at 4-6. Last, and most importantly, United States v. Davis is

not applicable to Petitioner's case. Davis held that the definition of a "crime of violence" in 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(3)(B) is unconstitutionally vague. Petitioner's crime of conviction and his predicate offenses were not governed by 18 U.S.C. § 924. As the Circuit noted on direct appeal, his predicate offenses were crimes of violence, and Davis does not alter that analysis. Doc. 82-1 at 3 n.2, 4 n.3.

In sum, Petitioner's argument on the merits is not convincing, and the Petition (Doc. 85) is DENIED. No certificate of appealability will issue because jurists of reason would not find the Court's conclusions debatable. See Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

April 18, 2022

s/Cathy Bissoon
Cathy Bissoon
United States District Judge

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